

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced nearly \$8 million in Housing and Urban Development grants in Bexar and El Paso Counties. The grants are part of HUD's Continuum of Care program, which keeps local homeless programs operating and prevents interruption of care.

“The number of people living on the streets and lacking basic services is staggering throughout Texas and our nation. The homeless are young, old, male, female, veterans and often employed,” said Congressman Rodriguez, who serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and the House Veterans Affairs Committee. □ “As we enter the winter months, it’s even more important that we continue to fund the agencies that do the critical work of providing housing and services to our homeless veterans and other vulnerable populations.”

Continuum of Care programs provide permanent and transitional housing to the homeless. The grants are part of nearly \$1.4 billion in grants being awarded nationwide to support 6,445 programs that will offer much-needed housing and services to homeless individuals and families.

One of the Bexar County recipients is the American GI Forum. President and CEO Carlos Martinez said the Continuum of Care grants will help the organization continue to provide housing, job training, job placement and other needed services to homeless veterans, who make up between 25 and 30 percent of the overall homeless population. Homeless veterans often live on the streets because of mental challenges, substance abuse and other problems, he said.

“I appreciate Congressman Rodriguez’s leadership on veterans’ issues,” Martinez said. “He has always been an outstanding champion for vets and is a great asset to this community.”

Congressman Rodriguez said the HUD grants will help meet increased need in the coming winter months.

“There will always be a need for this type of funding and I commend Secretary Shaun Donovan on making continued assistance for homeless programs a HUD priority for our veterans and other populations in need,” Congressman Rodriguez said.

Other Bexar County recipients include the Center for Health Care Services, the Salvation Army, Family Violence Prevention Services, SAMMinistries, San Antonio Urban Ministries

Fairweather Family Lodge, Woodhill Housing First and the City of San Antonio Housing Authority.

For more information about the grants, visit
www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/budget/2009/index.cfm

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